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Contemporary World Issues

**Network Neutrality**

*Should Internet users be in control of what content they view and what applications they use on the Internet?*

**Annotated Bibliography**

1. Net Neutrality Technical Challenges; Passmore, David

This article is from the Business Communications Review on April 1st, 2006 by David Passmore, an industry expert. This article contains an intro into the present situation of the problem in network neutrality, a body explaining some efforts trying to tackle the problem and then Passmore’s opinion attacking the ineffective problems. Passmore concludes the article by picking out problems in network neutrality and criticizing the ineffective solutions the network companies are using. Passmore is clearly attacking the companies controlling the networks and the networks users.

The level of work is extremely complicated with many technical sayings along with a lot of economic information concerning the consumers. There are many examples talking about technical issues, such as ‘…if and when IPTV gains traction, the issue of dedicated bandwidth…’ I guess the intended audience of this article is businessmen and computer users who know all the terms well, not normal citizens who barely know anything about computers, except on how to run and use it.

Overall, the article definitely defined network neutrality as a big problem nowadays in the United States because computer technology and its use is developing almost every moment. It attacks what the network companies are doing to give better services to the user who’s paying more.

1. Information Age: 'Network Neutrality'? Never Mind; Crovitz, L Gordon

This journal entry clearly states that the network is hardly neutral. Its biggest example is Google, who is, according to several news articles, negotiating deals with internet service providers to deliver its more bandwidth –demanding content, such as YouTube videos, more quickly. It goes onto explaining Google’s point of view and then problems on this. Examples such as the fact that President-elect Obama fully supports network neutrality are taken into account. Followed up by what President-elect Obama said are problems that are opening up every year. This article ends with the author, Gordon Crovitz, journalist in Wall Street, saying that cases such as the Google case shows that the network is hardly neutral- again.

The author is evidently supporting network neutrality, generalizing that it is too uneven right now and that the providers must change their way of service by working out a new approach, unless they want the consumers in the US, who once had the best Web experience, to fall further down the Internet ranks.

1. TRANSCENDING NET NEUTRALITY: TEN STEPS TOWARD AN OPEN ENTERNET; Meinrath, Sascha D; Pickard, Victor W

The Journal starts out with the authors, Sascha Meinrath and Victor Pickard, explaining why net neutrality matters. They define the term and pick out examples that concern network neutrality. They go into the historical overview of net neutrality next, explain about monopoly power and content discrimination in network neutrality. It sites previous literature on network neutrality and then transitions into current state of affairs in the US. More information on the current status is given as the abuse of monopoly market power and FCC regulatory environment are taken into account. The problems are stated in most of the above and then go into the problems with the US broadband penetration rates, followed by information on and open internet, thus the answers to the problems. The article is concluded with the fact that the debate about this is still open, plus his opinion and the citation of the authors’ resources.

This article is just an information article that explains to the reader about network neutrality. The targeted audience is most obviously people looking for information on it- this article is an overall overview. The authors are clearly for network neutrality.

1. NET NEUTRALITY: THE EUROPEAN DEBATE; Marsden, Christopher T

The article starts with the author, Christopher Marsden of Journalist in Internet Law, stating two rhetorical questions. It goes on to define the term net neutrality and then states the focus of the problem that he agrees with. The information inside includes the types of content discrimination, past transparency failures, the blocking and traffic shaping , termination fees for content providers, preferred partners and the quality of service. This too goes on by stating the problems and answers to network neutrality but this time, from the point of view of Europeans, not Americans. The article is concluded with two paragraphs on regulating for end-users and innovation along with footnotes.

This is most likely aiming for readers looking for information but from a different point of view. Most of the information are related to the US and therefore is written from the US point of view but this article is seen from the overall European point of view so it is a different situation. As the author is from ‘Internet Law’, this resource, although a journal, is reliable and has lots of information relating to my subject.

1. **A Guide to Net Neutrality for Google Users;** Google Help Center

This site is just purely explaining stuff on network neutrality to Google users. It is a ‘guide’, defining the term and showing the current status of network neutrality. The short amount of information is followed up by links on what people said about network neutrality and about Google. The information is an accurate and simple summary of everything. Not every single detail is mentioned but the need ones are.

It seems like the site is obviously targeting Google users- which are millions of people around the world. This guide is quite simple and isn’t hard to read, so I think it is aimed for average people who can speak English fluently. There is no detectable bias in the information on this site although there may be on the links. This is from Google, so I must guess that what they say has to be reliable- well, at least the facts.

1. 네트워크 중립성(Net neutrality)의 이해 및 주요 이슈 분석; 한국전산원

This is a Korean article. It’s informs readers about understanding network neutrality along with analyzing the main issues in network neutrality. It is written most likely from the point of American’s. It starts with the basics of network neutrality and background. It states the pros and cons of the net neutrality debate. The article is concluded with future sights and opinions of the writer. The paper is highly relevant to my topic as it explains both sides of the debate concerning network neutrality.

This isn’t really an article- but rather an informational paper with the knowledge listed down on points. The writer is for network neutrality. It seems like the paper is targeting professionals- after all, the paper’s overall name is ‘IT ISSUES WEEKLY’ from the National Information Society Agency- and thus the paper is trustable.

1. Network Neutrality, Broadband Discrimination; Tim Wu